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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-089]

Steel Racks from the People's Republic of China: Amended Preliminary Countervailing Duty Determination

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) is amending the scope of the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of steel racks from China to conform with the scope published in the preliminary determination of the companion antidumping duty (AD) investigation of steel racks from China. The period of investigation is January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

DATES: Applicable [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Commerce published its *CVD Preliminary Determination* on December 3, 2018.¹ On March 4, 2019, Commerce published its *AD Preliminary Determination* within which we

¹ See *Certain Steel Racks from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, and Alignment of Final Determination with Final Antidumping Duty Determination*, 83 FR 62297 (December 3, 2018) (*CVD Preliminary Determination*).

amended the scope of the investigation to exclude certain products, based upon comments received from interested parties.²

Amended Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is steel racks from China. We are amending the scope of the CVD investigation to conform with the scope of the companion AD investigation, including the exclusions of: (1) decks, *i.e.*, shelving that sits on or fits into the horizontal supports to provide the horizontal storage surface of the steel racks; (2) wire shelving units, *i.e.*, units made from wire that incorporate both a wire deck and wire horizontal supports (taking the place of the horizontal beams and braces) into a single piece with tubular collars that slide over the posts and onto plastic sleeves snapped on the posts to create a finished unit; (3) pins, nuts, bolts, washers, and clips used as connecting devices; and (4) non-steel components. These exclusions were first enumerated in the *AD Preliminary Determination*. For a complete description of the amended scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

Suspension of Liquidation

We have not revised the estimated cash deposit rates published in the *CVD Preliminary Determination*. In accordance with section 703(d)(1)(B) and (d)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), we will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to continue to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise as described in the amended scope of the investigation, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*, and to continue to require a cash deposit, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(d). Additionally, because certain products are now excluded from

² See *Steel Racks and Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 84 FR 7326 (March 4, 2019) (*AD Preliminary Determination*) and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum. See also, Memorandum “Steel Racks from the People’s Republic of China: Preliminary Scope Decision,” dated February 25, 2019, which was placed on the record of both the AD and CVD investigations.

the scope of the investigation, Commerce will instruct CBP to terminate suspension of liquidation of those excluded products, and to refund any cash deposits previously posted with respect to them.

Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission of its amended determination. This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Gary Taverman
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations,
performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance

Dated: March 29, 2019.

Appendix I

Amended Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is steel racks and parts thereof, assembled, to any extent, or unassembled, including but not limited to, vertical components (*e.g.*, uprights, posts, or columns), horizontal or diagonal components (*e.g.*, arms or beams), braces, frames, locking devices (*e.g.*, end plates and beam connectors), and accessories (including, but not limited to, rails, skid channels, skid rails, drum/coil beds, fork clearance bars, pallet supports, row spacers, and wall ties).

Subject steel racks and parts thereof are made of steel, including, but not limited to, cold and/or hot-formed steel, regardless of the type of steel used to produce the components and may, or may not, include locking tabs, slots, or bolted, clamped, or welded connections. Subject steel racks have the following physical characteristics:

- (1) Each steel vertical and horizontal load bearing member (*e.g.*, arms, beams, posts, and columns) is composed of steel that is at least 0.044 inches thick;
- (2) Each steel vertical and horizontal load bearing member (*e.g.*, arms, beams, posts, and columns) is composed of steel that has a yield strength equal to or greater than 36,000 pounds per square inch;
- (3) The width of each steel vertical load bearing member (*e.g.*, posts and columns) exceeds two inches; and
- (4) The overall depth of each steel roll-formed horizontal load bearing member (*e.g.*, beams) exceeds two inches.

In the case of steel horizontal load bearing members other than roll-formed (*e.g.*, structural beams, Z-beams, or cantilever arms), only the criteria in subparagraphs (1) and (2) apply to these horizontal load bearing members. The depth limitation in subparagraph (4) does not apply to steel horizontal load bearing members that are not roll-formed.

Steel rack components can be assembled into structures of various dimensions and configurations by welding, bolting, clipping, or with the use of devices such as clips, end plates, and beam connectors, including, but not limited to the following configurations: (1) racks with upright frames perpendicular to the aisles that are independently adjustable, with positive-locking beams parallel to the aisle spanning the upright frames with braces; and (2) cantilever racks with vertical components parallel to the aisle and cantilever beams or arms connected to the vertical components perpendicular to the aisle. Steel racks may be referred to as pallet racks, storage racks, stacker racks, retail racks, pick modules, selective racks, or cantilever racks and may incorporate moving components and be referred to as pallet-flow racks, carton-flow racks, push-back racks, movable-shelf racks, drive-in racks, and drive-through racks. While steel racks may be made to ANSI MH16.1 or ANSI MH16.3 standards, all steel racks and parts thereof

meeting the description set out herein are covered by the scope of this investigation, whether or not produced according to a particular standard.

The scope includes all steel racks and parts thereof meeting the description above, regardless of

- (1) other dimensions, weight, or load rating;
- (2) vertical components or frame type (including structural, roll-form, or other);
- (3) horizontal support or beam/brace type (including but not limited to structural, roll-form, slotted, unslotted, Z-beam, C-beam, L-beam, step beam, and cantilever beam);
- (4) number of supports;
- (5) number of levels;
- (6) surface coating, if any (including but not limited to paint, epoxy, powder coating, zinc, or other metallic coatings);
- (7) rack shape (including but not limited to rectangular, square, corner, and cantilever);
- (8) the method by which the vertical and horizontal supports connect (including but not limited to locking tabs or slots, bolting, clamping, and welding); and
- (9) whether or not the steel rack has moving components (including but not limited to rails, wheels, rollers, tracks, channels, carts, and conveyors).

Subject merchandise includes merchandise matching the above description that has been finished or packaged in a third country. Finishing includes, but is not limited to, coating, painting, or assembly, including attaching the merchandise to another product, or any other finishing or assembly operation that would not remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the steel racks and parts thereof. Packaging includes packaging the merchandise with or without another product or any other packaging operation that would not remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the steel racks and parts thereof.

Steel racks and parts thereof are included in the scope of this investigation whether or not imported attached to, or included with, other parts or accessories such as wire decking, nuts, and bolts. If steel racks and parts thereof are imported attached to, or included with, such non-subject merchandise, only the steel racks and parts thereof are included in the scope.

The scope of this investigation does not cover: (1) Decks, *i.e.*, shelving that sits on or fits into the horizontal supports to provide the horizontal storage surface of the steel racks; (2) wire shelving units, *i.e.*, units made from wire that incorporate both a wire deck and wire horizontal supports (taking the place of the horizontal beams and braces) into a single piece with tubular collars that

slide over the posts and onto plastic sleeves snapped on the posts to create a finished unit; (3) pins, nuts, bolts, washers, and clips used as connecting devices; and (4) non-steel components.

Specifically excluded from the scope of this investigation are any products covered by Commerce's existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders on boltless steel shelving units prepackaged for sale from the People's Republic of China. *See Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale From the People's Republic of China: Antidumping Duty Order*, 80 FR 63,741 (October 21, 2017); *Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale From the People's Republic of China: Amended Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Countervailing Duty Order*, 80 FR 63,745 (October 21, 2017).

Also excluded from the scope of this investigation are bulk-packed parts or components of boltless steel shelving units that were specifically excluded from the scope of the Boltless Steel Shelving Orders because such bulk-packed parts or components do not contain the steel vertical supports (*i.e.*, uprights and posts) and steel horizontal supports (*i.e.*, beams, braces) packaged together for assembly into a completed boltless steel shelving unit.

Such excluded components of boltless steel shelving are defined as:

- (1) Boltless horizontal supports (beams, braces) that have each of the following characteristics: (a) A length of 95 inches or less, (b) made from steel that has a thickness of 0.068 inches or less, and (c) a weight capacity that does not exceed 2500 lbs per pair of beams for beams that are 78" or shorter, a weight capacity that does not exceed 2200 lbs per pair of beams for beams that are over 78" long but not longer than 90", and/or a weight capacity that does not exceed 1800 lbs per pair of beams for beams that are longer than 90";
- (2) shelf supports that mate with the aforementioned horizontal supports; and
- (3) boltless vertical supports (upright welded frames and posts) that have each of the following characteristics: (a) A length of 95 inches or less, (b) with no face that exceeds 2.90 inches wide, and (c) made from steel that has a thickness of 0.065 inches or less.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are: (1) Wall-mounted shelving and racks, defined as shelving and racks that suspend all of the load from the wall, and do not stand on, or transfer load to, the floor; (2) ceiling-mounted shelving and racks, defined as shelving and racks that suspend all of the load from the ceiling and do not stand on, or transfer load to, the floor; and (3) wall/ceiling mounted shelving and racks, defined as shelving and racks that suspend the load from the ceiling and the wall and do not stand on, or transfer load to, the floor. The addition of a wall or ceiling bracket or other device to attach otherwise subject merchandise to a wall or ceiling does not meet the terms of this exclusion.

Also excluded from the scope of this investigation is scaffolding that complies with ANSI/ASSE A10.8—2011—Scaffolding Safety Requirements, CAN/CSA S269.2-M87 (Reaffirmed 2003)—Access Scaffolding for Construction Purposes, and/or Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations at 29 CFR part 1926 subpart L—Scaffolds.

Also excluded from the scope of this investigation are tubular racks such as garment racks and drying racks, *i.e.*, racks in which the load bearing vertical and horizontal steel members consist solely of: (1) Round tubes that are no more than two inches in diameter; (2) round rods that are no more than two inches in diameter; (3) other tubular shapes that have both an overall height of no more than two inches and an overall width of no more than two inches; and/or (4) wire.

Also excluded from the scope of this investigation are portable tier racks. Portable tier racks must meet each of the following criteria to qualify for this exclusion:

- (1) They are freestanding, portable assemblies with a fully welded base and four freely inserted and easily removable corner posts;
- (2) They are assembled without the use of bolts, braces, anchors, brackets, clips, attachments, or connectors;
- (3) One assembly may be stacked on top of another without applying any additional load to the product being stored on each assembly, but individual portable tier racks are not securely attached to one another to provide interaction or interdependence; and
- (4) The assemblies have no mechanism (*e.g.*, a welded foot plate with bolt holes) for anchoring the assembly to the ground.

Also excluded from the scope of this investigation are accessories that are independently bolted to the floor and not attached to the rack system itself, *i.e.*, column protectors, corner guards, bollards, and end row and end of aisle protectors.

Merchandise covered by this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under the following subheadings: 7326.90.8688, 9403.20.0080, and 9403.90.8041. Subject merchandise may also enter under subheadings 7308.90.3000, 7308.90.6000, 7308.90.9590, and 9403.20.0090. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes only. The written description of the scope is dispositive.

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